



Georgia Department of Human Resources

SAVANNAH YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

Project Meeting Minutes

Project Name:	Savannah Youth Collaborative
Date/Time:	Friday April 28, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.
Location:	Department of Family and Children Services
Facilitator:	Cheryl Dresser

Welcome/Meeting Objectives

The meeting of the Savannah Youth Collaborative was called to order and new and returning Collaborative members were welcomed by Cheryl Dresser. Introductions were made by each of the members present as there were several new members including a youth representative.

Project Updates

Agenda Item	Update/Decisions
Savannah Youth Collaborative	<p>The Savannah Project Manager, Sametria R. McFall, briefly discussed and introduced the Chairpersons of the sub-committees that have met since the last SYC monthly meeting. It was also announced that Lorr Elias would serve as the Co-Chair of the System of Care sub-committee after Paula Reynolds resigned this post.</p> <p>The Values sub-committee met on April 6, 2006. Lorr Elias provided an update to the SYC Committee. She indicated that the sub-committee's purpose was to establish/identify the values of the Savannah Youth Collaborative, which will be used as a filter for decision making in all aspects of the Collaborative and eventually, with some promotion and extended collaboration, the entire Savannah Community.</p> <p>Members of the SYC reviewed the Values document and a discussion ensued. It was decided that since the document was child and family focused that the phrase "youth guided" should be included. This phrase was added to the document (see below).</p>

<p>Savannah Youth Collaborative Continued</p>	<p>Carole Kaczorowski moved and Charlotte Rehmert gave a second that the Collaborative accept the Values with the addition as the guiding document for the Savannah Youth Collaborative.</p> <p>The revised values are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every child deserves, and should be provided, a family resource 2. The system of care shall be family center, youth guided and strength based with the child's well-being and safety at the forefront 3. The families or caregivers of the children shall be full participants in all aspects of the planning and delivery of services; Families shall be empowered with skill building to improve their ability to intervene and increase their autonomy 4. The system of care shall be community-based, with the center of services as well as management and decision-making responsibility resting at the community level 5. The community has the responsibility to provide services that support keeping children in the community <i>-participation should occur at all levels to include the media, police departments, volunteers, community groups, churches, public and private agencies/institutions, etc.</i> 6. The community has the responsibility to assure that all caregivers and children have the information and understanding to utilize all service systems 7. The community will advocate for an environment that promotes the healthy development of children 8. The system of care programs shall be culturally competent, with agencies, programs, and services that are responsive to the cultural, racial, and ethnic differences of the population they serve 9. Services to children shall be integrated and coordinated with the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services provided 10. Providers shall be qualified and accountable for the services they provide 11. Children and families have the best likelihood for positive outcomes with early identification and intervention 12. Services to children should be available without having to label them with a diagnosis 13. Transitional planning for youth in residential care should begin at the time of placement so as to maintain a bridge with the child's family resource and home community 14. Family conferencing/family teams shall be the cornerstone of the system of care, with all family and community partners present 15. Families, the community, service providers, and youth-serving institutions/agencies have a responsibility to recognize and address factors such as social conditions that contribute to children's behavioral health issues <p>With the adoption of the Values by the SYC this sub-committee has completed its</p>
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	<p>charge from the Collaborative and the members will join the SOC sub-committee.</p> <p>The SOC sub-committee met on April 25, 2006. Stanley William provided the update for the SOC sub-committee. He indicated that the Values document was accepted by this sub-committee and would be the guiding document for SOC and for developing a system of care for Savannah.</p> <p>He indicated that as a result of the identified Values this sub-committee would seek greater family involvement and would work to include at least two families as standing members of the sub-committee. They will provide input on family needs in general and children's needs in particular.</p> <p>A training plan for this sub-committee has been identified and is as follows: the first training will be provided by Colleen Maguire who worked extensively with the NJ System of Care. She will provide a macro-view of what a system of care is and help the sub-committee determine the types of questions they will need to address and a plan for accomplishing goals and objectives. This training will be for the sub-committee only. The second training will take the form of a panel discussion with discussants from, The Rockdale Group, DeKalb Policy Council and GA Parent Support Network. This group will provide insight into how systems of care are functioning in Georgia. This training will be open to the Collaborative and the public. The third training will be provided by Bob Freeman from the Tampa Group. He will provide a national overview of system of care, how they are working across the country and some of the potential pitfalls that this group may be able to avoid as they move forward with their development.</p> <p>As this sub-committee continues to build and move forward they will seek to integrate existing programs in the community to facilitate a system of care in Savannah.</p>
Mobile Crisis Response Service/Crisis Stabilization Program	<p>Abdul Hafeez El-Amin reported that the MRCU received training from the Sweetzer group. He indicated that this group applauded the model being implemented in Savannah because they will follow a crisis client for 30 – 45 days after the initial request for stabilization.</p> <p>Community outreach is currently being conducted to notify the community of the services being provided.</p> <p>The MCRU became fully active on April 20th. On April 23rd this Unit received three calls in one night. They were able to stabilize one child and as a result this child was able to remain at home as opposed to being admitted to a hospital.</p> <p>The MCRU will respond to developmental disability calls.</p> <p>Once children and families are connected with more permanent resources the MCRU will slowly disengage from the family to minimize any lapse associated with attachment.</p>

Developmental Disability Waivers	<p>Alzena Hewitt-Brooks provided the update. She indicated that six eligible children have received PCP screenings.</p> <p>One child began receiving services from the DD waiver on last week.</p> <p>Seven LOC children have submitted applications for waivers on last week.</p> <p>It is anticipated that sixteen children should be identified by the end of the program.</p> <p>All children should be receiving services by May 15th.</p>
Substance Abuse Training	<p>The two-day certification training for providers who missed the initial training was held on March 27th and 28th in Macon, GA.</p> <p>Several area providers sent members of their organization to be trained in the Seven Challenges program. The providers who took part in this training will be expected to use this program in their practice with support from the program developer.</p> <p>This update was provided by Sametria McFall.</p>
TANF Outpatient Substance Abuse Program	<p>Charlotte Rehmert indicated that this committee received approval to include TANF eligible clients, which increases the potential women and families that can benefit from this program.</p> <p>The providers from this committee along with grant writer, Bruce Elias from DFCS, prepared the proposal which was forwarded to the State by PM Sametria McFall.</p> <p>The proposal has been approved with minor modifications.</p> <p>Kristen Fahey will provide in home counseling, SABHC will provide trauma counseling, Gateway will provide case management, work training and life skills training and Project Welcome Home will provide services as well.</p> <p>It is anticipated that at least fifteen clients will begin receiving services as early as next week.</p>
After School Substance Abuse Program	<p>Towards No Drugs program began on Tuesday April 25th at Scott Alternative School in Savannah, GA.</p> <p>Dr. Janice Ellis is the counselor in charge.</p> <p>Sametria McFall provided the update.</p>
DFCS Placements	<p>There are 56 children at levels 4, 5, and 6.</p> <p>Most of the Level 5 Children are in Chatham County.</p> <p>Many from this Level could be stepped down; however there are inadequate amounts</p>

	<p>of therapeutic foster care families.</p> <p>Four children have been stepped down into the community, and one child will return on May 30th.</p> <p>There is a request to expand the current Local Match Committee. This committee also needs to be strengthened with training for new members. Lillian Taylor reported for this committee.</p>
Home Visiting Services	<p>This goal has been amended and is operating on an adjusted time schedule because of staff transitions and a complete overhaul of the data system which requires extensive training.</p> <p>At present some key indicators are yielding some very positive numbers.</p> <p>Ginger Heidel reported for this committee.</p>
Interagency Case Management System Project for Juveniles	<p>Ginger Heidel indicated that this committee received training on using the data base at the end of March.</p> <p>The MOU is currently with the State attorneys and once approval is obtain from Commissioners Walker and Murray and receives the signatures from local authorities the “I Can” project will begin to operate</p>
Miscellaneous	<p>In keeping with the Values that have been adopted by the Collaborative, the next meeting will occur on a different day of the week and at a different time so that families and youth can participate in the meeting</p>

Outstanding Issues		
Number	Issue	Owner
1	There is no information to report.	

Next Meeting		
Date	Time	Location
May 18, 2006	6:00 p.m.	TBA